

Serial No. 10/086,698
Art Unit 2633

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended) ~~The system as defined in claim 14~~ A system for performing automatic recovery of a control plane network in the event of a control link failure in an optical communications system comprising:
a link manager for detecting a failure in a control link between neighboring nodes; and
a control channel manager for searching for an alternate route between the neighboring nodes, for switching the control plane to the alternate route if an alternate route is located, and for notifying respective nodes of the alternate route,
wherein the control channel manager has an information database for maintaining information on the control network, and wherein said the information database stores a forwarding redirection table that maps forwarding interfaces.

Claim 16 (currently amended) ~~The system as defined in claim 13~~ 15 having an IP forwarder for forwarding information from a routing table and the forwarding redirection table.